Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [132] on pages 37-38 with the following paragraph:

[132] More specifically, 10 ng of alien B was PCR amplified with a forward primer (5'- TTCTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGCATCTATCTATGTCAGTTACCGGC [SEQ ID NO: 151]) and a reverse primer (5'-TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTCTAATAACTGAGGTGATTTCCGAC [SEQ ID NO: 152]) using the SuperMix High fidelity polymerase (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) and the Manufacturer's suggested protocol (which included the following cycle program: 94°C for 30 sec, 55°C for 55 sec, and 72°C for 1 min) was followed. The reaction was performed for 30 cycles followed by a 3 min. final elongation incubation. The PCR product was analyzed on a 1.5% agarose gel and quantified according to quantitative low range DNA markers (Invitrogen).

Please replace paragraph [137] on page 39 with the following paragraph:

[137] In order to demonstrate the use of alien sequences as internal controls for microarray spotting and hybridization, alien oligonucleotides were first shown to be able to effectively hybridize with their targets even when included in spots containing other oligonucleotides. Specifically, microarrays were constructed in which a single alien oligonucleotide, AO892 (5'GGTACGAATCTCCCATTGCATGGACAAATATAGTCCACGCATTGGACGCA CCCACCGATGGCTCTCCAAT [SEQ ID NO: 153]), was spotted by itself in concentrations ranging from 2 to 20 μM, and was also spotted with a mixture of other 70mer probes, whose concentrations also increased.